

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUGUST 6, 2018 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in a regular session on Monday, August 6, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Municipal Complex, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.

Council President Rose read the following announcement:

Notice of Meeting

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 9, 2018 by sending written and electronic notice to the Courier News and the Star Ledger, posting on the Township website and on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and filing with the Township Clerk.

On call of the roll, the following Council members were present:

Allen Kurdyla
Howard Norgalis
Filipe Pedroso - Absent
Council Vice President Matthew C. Moench
Council President Christine Henderson Rose

Also Present: James T. Naples, Township Administrator
 Christopher Corsini, Township Attorney
 Linda J. Doyle, Township Clerk

Council President Rose led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

JULY 16, 2018 - REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, the July 16th regular session minutes were moved for approval and passed on a voice call vote.

Council Reports

Councilman Moench:

- Reported he had a resident question him on abandoned houses. He's been made aware of a program some towns have utilized to give the town greater enforcement and additional revenue from banks and resident who are not occupying them. He offered to forward the information on this program to Administration to review and determine if Bridgewater may consider such a program.
- Stafford Township, Ocean County utilizes a System named On-Point which partners with social workers which has no impact on taxes to be proactive with community matters. Such as mental health issues, hoarding, drug and alcohol etc. He would like a representative from Stafford to come to a Council meeting

in September and present to Council the system advantages. He noted Congressman McArthur has recently proposed legislation this program is a model for other communities to embrace.

- He reported he has received notes and texts from residents and advised the Council has rejected any increases on the Municipal level that said reassessments are done every few years which may impact the rate.

Councilman Norgalis:

- The June 25th Planning Board heard representation from NJ Transit regarding replacing a large 2-sided LED Billboard on Rt 287 as NJ Transit is a State agency the Planning Board could not reject or accept the application but only makes suggestions on the proposal. The August 14th session has been cancelled for lack of application.
- Reported the Country Club, Section IX road improvement project will begin shortly and came in \$20,000 under the engineer estimate.
- He advised the Somerset County 4-H Fair will begin August 8, 9 and 10th at the Fair Ground on Milltown Road.
- He reported the tax bills have gone out and have been received by most noting the third quarter will be extended until September 7th.
- CFO Natasha Turchan provided reports on the Bond Note Sale in the amount of \$7,996,000 to Oppenheimer & Co. at 1.753% and the General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$18,910,000 to Roosevelt and Cross, Inc. at 3.05% as the lowest qualified responders

Councilman Kurdyla

- Attended the viewing of longtime resident Agnes Zagari whose husband Mike was one of the first line of duty deaths incurred in the Township 49 years ago. The Zagari family has been active volunteers for many years in the Township and Somerville. Councilman Kurdyla wished to mention Agnes Zagari and offer appreciation for her dedication and time with the Finderne Fire and Rescue.

Council President Rose:

- Reported the Creative Arts Committee and the Friends of Bridgewater History have joined commission. Plan is have photos taken of various historic properties and feature them in an exhibit in the spring and 12 of them will be selected for a calendar available in the fall. . Special thank you to Chip Mills, Township employee who has done a yeoman's job of cataloging historical properties. We may have a Girl Scout do a gold award project to research the stories behind these properties.
- She reported Bridgewater now has the oldest tree in Somerset County is now on top of the hill noting the tree holding this title in Basking Ridge has died.

**Mayor's
Reports**

Township Administrator Naples

- The Mayor recognized last week the end of another of successful summer Camp Season. The number of camps held was well attended.
- The Mayor had the opportunity to go to Washington, DC at the end of July to advocate for We Work for Health Industry and the pharmaceutical industry in Bridgewater.

**Public
Comment**

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public.

Members of the public wishing to address the Council on any matter will be allowed two minutes to speak, unless there are unusual circumstances.

Linda Sikora thanked Township Officials, Somerset County and the Foothill Civic Association, Bob Vaucher who worked tirelessly for many years and all that participated to contribute to the acquisition of the Wemple property.

Robert Meyer, State President and Diane Oliver representing the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution called Robert Vaucher up to the podium and presented him a silver certificate and medallion for all his service and perseverance in preserving the history for the Township. Photos were taken.

Fred Shandor, 512 Steele Gap Road questioned whether the public would have an opportunity to speak on the ordinance for final action prior to the vote. Council President confirmed there will be a public hearing opportunity.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the public comment portion was closed.

**Public Hearing
& Final Action
Ordinances**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A BINDING REFERENDUM, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:69A-185 ET SEQ. AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7, AS TO WHETHER THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SHOULD ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 20-6 (UTILIZATION OF THE LAND) OF CHAPTER 20 (OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SO AS TO PERMIT THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND MONIES TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES OR STRUCTURES AND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ANY SUCH HISTORIC PROPERTIES OR STRUCTURES, IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PRESERVATION OF SAME PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7(A)(1)(E)

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public.

Fred Shandor, 512 Steele Gap Road Supports the Open Space referendum for acquisitions such as the Wemple property and Open Space for the preservation of land only but strongly objects to the tax used for capital projects.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the public comment portion was closed.

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, the foregoing Ordinance was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Absent
Council Vice-President Moench	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution [#18-08-06-201](#) is appended to the official minutes.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF LAND IDENTIFIED AS A PORTION OF LOT 4, BLOCK 712 CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 31 ACRES, KNOWN AS 440 FOOTHILL ROAD, TWIN OAKS ROAD AND 501 STEELE GAP ROAD FROM BRIDGEWATER ESTATES, LLC (“SELLER”) FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE OF \$1,925,000.00, \$250,000.00 TO BE PAID BY THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET (the “County”); \$250,000.00 TO BE PAID BY THE CROSS ROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ASSOCIATION, 101 BARRACK STREET, TRENTON, NJ 08608 (“the Cross Roads”), \$175,000.00 BY THE D&R GREENWAY LAND TRUST AT THE JOHNSON EDUCATION CENTER ONE PRESERVATION PLACE, PRINCETON, NJ 08540 (“D & R”), \$1,150,000.00 FROM THE TOWNSHIP’S OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND, A CHARITABLE DONATION FROM BRIDGEWATER ESTATES, LLC OF BLOCK 718, LOT 63 APPROXIMATELY 1.319 ACRES AND THE TOWNSHIP TAKING TITLE SUBJECT TO ROLL BACK TAXES IN THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting was opened to the public.

Bob Vaucher addressed Council stating in his 68 years he lived in Bridgewater he had addressed the Council many times but none have taken as much resilience as the Wemple property. He said he knew John Wemple and knew he was adamant to keep the property undeveloped. This process was started some 25 years ago. John Wemple passed in 2001, and the terms of his will were broken and the property was sold for

development. The Foothill Civic Association formed the Stop 18 Homes movement.

He thanked Brendan Burns and David Stempien for the patience and perseverance towards this goal. He acknowledged the 1500 people who signed a petition and encouraged Steven Lang, current owner to wait for a preservation resolution.

He offered praise to the citizens who raised \$100,000 to show commitment and additionally thanked Somerset County, Laura Swank of Crossroads of the American Revolution and Linda Meade of D&R Greenway Trust.

He praised the Open Space Committee and the Council for their unanimous approval of this project.

Mr. Vaucher's full statement is appended to the minutes.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the public comment portion was closed.

Councilman Moench stated this acquisition is a "no brainer" for property this size to preserve our community for years and years to come. He also commented on Bob Vaucher noting he is truly a model in community service; he's in newspaper articles in Morris County and another event in Ocean County and physical therapy locally noting he's also quite agile. Pleased to introduced this ordinance for final action.

Councilman Kurdyla appreciates the fact this is coming to conclusion. He noted what makes it more special is the work everyone has done from public sector to private and government sectors. With the inclusion of these 31 acres we as a governing body have brought in the past 2 ½ years approx 150 acres of Open Space in the center of Bridgewater Township with cooperation of the County and the bulk being done by the Open Space Committee.

Council President read a statement from Filipe Pedroso who wrote he was not able to attend this evening's session due to a work obligation but did want to relay that he strongly supports the ordinance. He added due to the campaign led by Bridgewater's own military veteran, hero and long time resident and public servant, Lt. Col. Bob Vaucher; donations from individuals, non-profit organizations, Freehold Director Patrick Scaglione's county contribution. All in all, with these donations and contributions the price per acre is reduced to \$40,000 per acre. The 31 acre property will be preserved for future generations. He acknowledged a special thank you to Lt. Col. Bob Vaucher for his leadership and efforts never wavering determination at placing this land under the ownership of Bridgewater so that all can enjoy for years to come. Councilman Pedroso's full statement is appended to the official minutes.

Council President Rose noted she supported this purchase for open space and is so happy the township is now executing on that purchase. Council President stated she echoes the sentiments of other Council member's offering this property also has historic value as well as maintaining open space for generations to come.

On motion of Councilman Moench, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the foregoing Ordinance was proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Absent
Council Vice-President Moench	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED.

A copy of resolution #18-08-06-202 is appended to the official minutes

Introduction of Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS ("RED CROSS") FOR UP TO FOUR (4) PARKING SPACES AT THE BRIDGEWATER MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 100 COMMONS WAY, BRIDGEWATER, NJ PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:A-12-13, 14, 15(i)

Council President Rose read the foregoing ordinance by title.

Mr. Naples advised the Red Cross formerly located in Somerville is pursuing another location perhaps in Bridgewater and has requested the use of four parking spaces temporarily until the end of year or first quarter of 2019.

Council President Rose asked for a motion to introduce.

There was no motion by the Council to introduce this ordinance.

THE ORDINANCE WAS NOT INTRODUCED.

Resolutions

There being no questions concerning the following resolutions, Council President Rose called for a consent vote on A,B,C, E and F - resolution D was discussed separately.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE THIRD QUARTER FROM AUGUST 1, 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO AA BERMS, LLC FOR 2018 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, IN THE SUM OF \$66,000.00, FUNDED THROUGH THE 2014 CAPITAL FUND TO REMOVE AND REPLACE CONCRETE SIDEWALK SLABS DAMAGED BY TREE ROOT SYSTEMS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DESANTIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-SECTION IX (LYME ROCK ROAD TO ROOSEVELT STREET EAST), IN THE SUM OF \$285,140.80 FUNDED THROUGH THE 2017 CAPITAL FUND

CHANGE OF CORPORATE STRUCTURE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 22 WEST TAP AND GRILL, LLC LICENSE NO 1806-33-012-012 LOCATED AT 1601 ROUTE 22, BOUND BROOK, NJ 08805 TO NEW LIQUOR LICENSE NO. 1806-33-012-013

REQUEST FOR PERMIT FEE WAIVERS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2100.00 FROM THE FIRE OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT AND AN ADDITIONAL \$484.00 FROM THE CONSTRUCTION CODE DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2584.00 FOR THE SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H FAIR AT NORTH BRANCH PARK LOCATED AT 310 MILLTOWN ROAD ON AUGUST 8, 9 AND 10, 2018

On motion of Councilman Norgalis, seconded by Councilman Moench, the foregoing resolutions were proposed. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Absent
Council Vice-President Moench	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

Copies of resolutions [#18-08-06-203 thru #18-08-06-207](#) are appended to the official minutes

AUTHORIZING CONSENT AGREEMENT WITH LCS DEVELOPMENT, LLC TO PERMIT PLACEMENT OF REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS IN EMERGENCY ACCESS EASEMENT ON BLOCK 711, LOT 13, TO BE NAMED AS 901 FRONTIER ROAD

Councilman Kurdyla felt the backup information on this resolution was not clear and requested further clarification.

Councilman Moench motioned to table the ordinance pending further clarification, seconded by Councilman Kurdyla; the vote to table was as follows:

Councilman Kurdyla	Aye
--------------------	-----

Councilman Norgalis	Aye
Councilman Pedroso	Absent
Council Vice-President Moench	Aye
Council President Rose	Aye

THE RESOLUTION WAS TABLED.

On the motion of Council President Rose, seconded by Councilman Norgalis, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J. Doyle, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Christine Henderson-Rose
Council President